

YEAR A | QUARTER 2

1

At Home in My Church

Community
We experience God's love in our church.

POWER TEXT

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).

KEY REFERENCES

- Acts 4:32-37
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 7, pp. 70, 71
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 26-30
- Student story on page 22 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 12, The Church
- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that the first Christians showed God's love by taking care of one another like family members.
- **Feel** grateful for the way they see God's love in their church.
- **Respond** by finding ways to share with the church family.

POWERPOINT

Our church is a family of believers who take care of one another.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Christians in the early church show the love of God by the way they support one another. They look for those among them who are in need, and do everything possible to help them. In some cases they sell their properties and contribute money.

This is a lesson about grace in community.

When people are part of a Christian community, they share all they have—time, money, food, possessions—with other believers. Today church members are still to care for one another.

Teacher Enrichment

"The record declares, 'Neither was there any among them that lacked,' and it tells how the need was filled. Those among the believers who had money and possessions cheerfully sacrificed them to meet the emergency. Selling their houses or their lands, they brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. . . .

"Thus it will ever be when the Spirit of God takes possession of the life. . . . Money, time, influence—all the gifts they have received from God's hand, they will value only as a means of advancing the work of the gospel. . . . The truths proclaimed will have a powerful influence upon the hearers" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 70, 71).

What do I have that I am willing to share with others?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. Groups	group directions
		B. Needs and Haves	paper, pens/pencils
		C. Name It	photographs or pictures of people helping others, paper, pens/pencils
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 17. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, food basket/bowl, letters to parents (p. 144)
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	three copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 145)
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, paper, pens/pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenarios*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Goodwill Gift**	wrapped candy/healthy snacks, small strips of paper, pens/pencils, tape, box, art supplies to decorate box
* Closing		A. Prayer and closing comments	
		B. Reminder to parents	
		C. Coming up next week	

*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ group directions

Groups

Ask the students to stand up and push back their chairs, leaving a large empty area. Tell them you will call out a number and an action. People should get together into a group of that number doing that action as quickly as possible. Whoever is left out of a group has to sit down. Allow them to practice once by calling out **Five, form groups of five—huddled tight**.

Continue giving directions, such as:

Six — shoulders touching, facing the same direction.
Four — holding hands in a circle.
Three — lined up in a row standing on tiptoe.
Two — holding both hands and facing each other.

Continue until there are only two students left. Applaud the students who remain.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you choose the groups you were in?** (Accept responses.) **If you were in a group—what did you think about those who had been left out?** (OK, sorry, didn't think of them) **How did it feel being left out of the group?** (OK, lonely, etc.) **What could we do at church to make sure no visitors or members feel that way?** (Be friendly, invite people to sit with us.) Say: **As Christians we are called to be united with the same purpose. Together we can reach out to others with the good news about Jesus. Let's say together our power text, Galatians 6:10,**

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

Our church is a family of believers who take care of one another.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Needs and Haves

Instruct the students to pretend that there has been a disaster in their town. Divide the class into two groups. The first group will make a list of things people who have lost everything will need to set up a household: homes, furniture, clothing, food, tools. (Tell them to add some things to the list that are luxuries, such as silk pajamas, etc.) Without conferring with the first group, the second group will make a list of things people already have that they could share. When everyone is finished, the first group will read their needs list. The second group will respond whenever they have listed an item the first group needs.

Debriefing

Ask: **What is it like to be able to fulfill the needs of others?** (OK, great, etc.) **What do you think we might do about the needs of others that are unfulfilled?** (Accept responses.) **How is this like what the early Christians did for each other?** (very much) **Let's say together our power text, Galatians 6:10,**

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

Our church is a family of believers who take care of one another.

Accommodations for students with special needs

Allow students with special needs who experience difficulty with this activity to work with a partner who could assist them.

Prayer & Praise

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ photographs or pictures of people helping others
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Name It

During the week collect pictures or photographs of people helping one another. Number each one and place them around the room. As the students come in, give them paper and a pen/pencil and have them go from picture to picture and write a caption for each one. After everyone has arrived, give the students an opportunity to share their captions.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did people help with as shown in our pictures?** (Accept all responses.) **How do you think the people who were helped by someone else felt?** (grateful, happy, etc.) **How do you think the people who helped someone else felt?** (good, satisfied) **Let's say together our power text, Galatians 6:10,**

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

Our church is a family of believers who take care of one another.

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"This Is the Day" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 98)
"Walking in the Spirit" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 73)
"We Are the Family of God" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 114)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins
- ☐ letter to parents (p. 144)

Use *Adventist Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place. Send a letter to the parents, informing them about the mission offering (see letter to parents on p. 144).

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ food basket OR bowl

Use a food basket or bowl as an offering container to represent how the early church shared food.

Say: **In the early church people gave things such as food and clothing to help others. We still do that today, but we also give money. Plan to set aside a little of the money you get each week to give so other people can have the things they need.**

Prayer

Have the class divide into groups of two or three. Instruct them to spend time asking God to show them ways that they can share what they have with others. Pray for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors. Close by thanking God for the privilege of sharing.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
□ three scripts (p. 145)

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

The *Net Kids* are an imaginative way to introduce the Bible story. If you prefer not to use this imaginary element, read over the script yourself and introduce the lesson concept in your own words.

You will need three scripts for the students. The script for duplication is found on page 145 of this guide. You can either have them memorize the parts a week ahead or give them the script Sabbath morning. To introduce the *Net Kids*, say: **The *Net Kids* are an imaginary international group of children ages 11-14 who communicate regularly through e-mail. Emiko and Darren met in a teen Christian chat room and found out that they were both Seventh-day Adventists. They then created a chat room for Adventist juniors and teens, and the other four joined. They get together as often as they can through the Internet.**

Ulla: 11-year-old girl, Sweden
Ivan: 12-year-old boy, Russia
Tendai: 12-year-old boy, Zimbabwe
Ana: 13-year-old girl, U.S.A.
Darren: 13-year-old boy, Australia
Emiko: 14-year-old girl, Japan

Arrange the students at desks, or chairs turned around as desks if no desks are available. Have them tap as they read their part to simulate typing at a computer keyboard. Present the skit.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who do you know who has done something similar to help another church member?** (Accept responses.) **Today we are going to talk about a whole church community that helped one another with their needs**.

YOU NEED:
□ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Have a student volunteer to read Acts 4:32-37. Then go back through the passage and have a pair or up to four students develop conversations based on the following verses: 4:32; 4:33; 4:34, 35; 4:36, 37. After a few minutes have each group report their conversation.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did the disciples know who needed what?** (People reported to them the needs of others; deacons found out.) **How do you think the people got what they needed?** (Sometimes they asked; other times people asked them, or just observed.) **What is one way of getting things to people who need them without waiting for the people to ask?** (Having people who are helper "spies" who keep their eyes open for needs.)

Say: **Remember, our power point is:**

Our church is a family of believers who take care of one another.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Exploring the Bible

Have the students find and read the following verses. Give them paper and pens/pencils and instruct them to paraphrase each text.

1 Thessalonians 5:11, 15 (Comfort each other and give each other strength. . . . Always try to do what is good for one another.)

Galatians 6:10 (We should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers.)

Ephesians 4:32 (Be kind and loving to one another.)

Romans 12:13 (Share with God's people who need help.)

Debriefing

When all have finished, ask: **Why do you think it's so important to be extra kind to other believers?** (It gives others hope and encouragement; helps us feel useful; we're brothers and sisters.) **What are some examples in the Bible of people who were kind to other believers?** (David and Jonathan; Esther and Mordecai; Mary Magdalene and Jesus; David and Mephibosheth; the paralytic let down through the roof by his friends.)

Let's say together our power text, Galatians 6:10:

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).

(Adapted from *The Youth Worker's Encyclopedia of Bible Teaching Ideas: New Testament* [Loveland, Colo.: Group], p. 171. Used by permission.)

Scenarios

Say: **Often we don't help people because we don't want to embarrass them or ourselves. Tell how you would help people in the following situations.** Allow time for responses.

1. **Everyone is going to camp, except for one girl. You find out the day before that she can't go because she doesn't have clothing suitable for camp. She is one size smaller than you, and you have lots of clothes in her size.**
2. **You notice that a classmate tends to disappear at lunchtime. You follow him one day and discover he didn't bring a lunch so he drank a lot of water. Another day he had just a slice of bread, which he gobbled down in about 10 seconds.**
3. **A classmate has done a good job on her science project but may get a reduced grade because she can't afford to buy poster board to display it.**

Debriefing

Ask: **How would you like to be treated in each of these situations?** (Have someone help meet or be sensitive to my needs.) **Do your best to help others by treating them the way you would like to be treated.**

Let's say our power point together:

Our church is a family of believers who take care of one another.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

*Goodwill Gift**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ wrapped candy/healthy snacks
- ☐ small strips of paper
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ tape
- ☐ box
- ☐ art supplies to decorate box

Encourage students to tell the class how they served others during the past week following the suggestions given in their Bible study guides. Ask: **How did you find out what things people needed? What did you share? How did people respond? How did you help at home? How did you tell someone that you appreciate him/her? How did you talk to someone about God's love?** Say: **We are told to be kind to one another. One way to do that is to encourage each other.** Distribute wrapped candy/healthy snack, about five pieces per student, along with pens/pencils, small slips of paper, and tape.

Say: **We are told to be kind to one another. One way to do that is to encourage each other. We're going to do this by writing goodwill statements on the slips of paper and wrapping them around the pieces of candy/healthy snack. Then we'll give them to church members.**

They can work together in groups to determine what goodwill phrases they'll write on the slips. Remind them to write only positive statements. These could be Bible verses or sayings, such as "You're priceless because Jesus died for you." Allow time for groups to share ideas for phrases.

Let everyone help decorate a box to look like a package of sweets. Drop the goodwill candy/healthy snack inside and help the students distribute it after Sabbath School, explaining the purpose.

Debriefing

Ask: **How will this activity help us "live" our power text?** (It is a way we can share encouragement with our church family.) **Let's say together our power text, Galatians 6:10:**

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).

What is this week's power point?

Our church is a family of believers who take care of one another.

*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray for the students' willingness and opportunities to share with other believers.

Say: **Look for opportunities to share as the early Christians did.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Early Christians spread the Word in spite of persecution. We can share Jesus' love in all circumstances.**

Notes

Student lesson

At Home in My Church

Do you like organizing things and people? It's a gift to be able to do that. The disciples had their hands full after Pentecost, with people losing homes and jobs because of their faith. But they pulled together, and everyone had food, clothing, and a place to live. Try to picture the interactions within the fellowship of believers.

After Pentecost the number of believers continued to grow. Everyone was in awe of the miracles that the disciples performed. They listened eagerly to their teaching. They spent hours together praying, praising, and studying. Since they were together most of the day, they shared their meals in one another's homes. Those who were able sold their possessions and gave to people in need. For a while even nonbelievers were excited about the changes made in their friends and family members. The believers were a loving group of people.

Yet the priests, elders, and other religious leaders began to persecute the believers. Following Christ was becoming more difficult. The disciples decided it was time to do something.

"Peter, we've got a problem," one of the disciples said when they met for their daily planning time. "Many of the new believers are being thrown out of their homes by their families, and they have no place to go."

"That's right," John added. "Some of the men have lost their jobs. So they cannot provide for their families."

"We have to find some way to help them," Peter said.

"Why don't we put out a general announcement?" Matthias suggested. "We can have everyone contribute what they can to help those who don't have food, clothing, or a place to stay."

"Will some of you organize this right away?" Peter asked. "We'll need a list of what is turned in so we know what we have to distribute."

In just a few days the disciples made contacts with other believers. They had plenty of things for people, but now they needed help distributing them. So they invited the believers to contribute to the distribution of the supplies.

Within a short time the volunteers were ready to start working. Some were willing to help because they wanted to work in return for the food and shelter they would be given. Others helped because they loved God and His people.

Soon those who were struggling to provide for their families received from the followers of Christ what they needed: food, shelter, clothing. With these needs taken care of, the new believers were free to share the good news of the gospel with others.

Some of the believers had sold property and donated the money to the community of believers. Several others were also planning to contribute in the same way. One man, Barnabas, from another country, sold his land and journeyed to Jerusalem to give the money he received for it to the apostles.

"I now see why Jesus commanded us to care about our neighbors as much as we care about ourselves," Matthew said.

The apostles and the other believers were happy and grateful for the outpouring of love. It made them want to love and serve God—and one another—even more.

The description of the early Christian church recorded by Luke in the book of Acts serves as an example of authentic Christianity for us who live in the present age:

"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:44-47).

KEY REFERENCES

- Acts 4:32-37
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 7, pp. 70, 71
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 26-30
- Our Beliefs nos. 14, 12, 17

POWER TEXT

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10).

POWER POINT

Our church is a family of believers who take care of one another.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 18.

Sunday

READ Read Acts 4:32 and this week's story, "At Home in My Church."

LEARN Begin memorizing the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His church.

Monday

READ Read Acts 4:33.

LIST List things people in your church could share.

SHARE Begin putting change in a bank at home just for helping other Christians.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for wisdom to support others in your church.

Tuesday

READ Read Acts 4:34, 35.

THINK Would sharing make your church stronger?

DO What are things you could offer to someone else?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to show you what He wants you to share with others in your church family.

Wednesday

READ Read Acts 4:36, 37.

LIST In your Bible study journal* list material and nonmaterial things that you can share with others.

SHARE Make it your goal to daily share kindness with someone (be it just smiles and caring words).

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for other Christians around the world who are sharing what God has given them.

Thursday

READ Read Acts 2:44.

THINK What did Barnabas give the church in addition to the money from selling the field?

SHARE Write a note or make a card that you can give to someone on Sabbath morning.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for your Sabbath School teacher.

Friday

READ Read Acts 2:45.

LIST In your Bible study journal write things you can do to actively support your church family.

SAY Repeat the power text by memory.

SHARE Have your family members share various needs that church members may have, as well as ways in which they could support the church family by serving others.

PRAY Pray for your family members and ask God to use each of you as channels of His blessings to others.

NOTE *Your Bible study journal is found at the back of your Bible study guide. If you need additional space, use a notebook or open a file on your computer. Writing out your thoughts when you study the Bible helps you remember what you learned from God's Word.